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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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Local Aid

Below is a chart that displays the state dollars approved in the 2006-2007 budget for our towns:

Town	State Owned Pilot	Pequot Fund	Town Aid Roads	LoCIP	Public School Transportation	ECS	Total of all State Aid
Ashford	\$6,872	\$44,711	\$136,699	\$53,451	\$78,263	\$3,437,204	\$3,815,646
Tolland	\$59,848	\$72,624	\$160,967	\$117,413	\$263,068	\$8,881,453	\$9,817,068
Willington	\$47,347	\$54,498	\$121,261	\$60,202	\$101,840	\$3,256,074	\$3,687,821



Bart Russell, Director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, presents Rep. Cardin with the Legislator Of The Year Award as State Comptroller Nancy Wyman looks on.

For additional information, contact my office for copies of 2006 laws affecting:

**Seniors - Municipalities - Education -
Environment - Land Use -
Business - Children - Insurance -
2006 Major Acts Summary -
Living Will Packet**

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE



MICHAEL J. CARDIN

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

53rd Assembly District - Ashford, Tolland and Willington

Summer 2006

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2006 legislative session has concluded at the State Capitol. I am pleased to share with you some of the accomplishments we worked hard to achieve.

We passed a fiscally responsible budget that addresses critical needs important to the people of Connecticut. The state's projected \$661 million surplus will be used for several onetime payments, including: \$246 million to the under-funded Teachers' Retirement Fund; \$85.5 million to pay off economic recovery notes from the 2003 fiscal crisis; and \$33 million for property tax relief. We were also able to put \$189.8 million into the Rainy Day Fund, bringing it to a total of \$795.4 million.

The legislature enacted new initiatives in the areas of job growth, economic development, school nutrition, and a major transportation plan that addresses needs vital to our state. These and other important legislative accomplishments are outlined inside of this newsletter.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in Hartford for the past twelve years. As many of you already know, I will not be seeking re-election in November. The decision was one of the most difficult I have ever had to make. Serving as a State Representative, teaching and being a father all require a lot of time and dedication. After much soul searching I concluded this was the right decision for my family and me.

It has been both an honor and a privilege to represent the 53rd District as your State Representative. Thank you for placing your trust and faith in my abilities. I will treasure the memories and friendships I have made along the way, and look forward to renewing old friendships while remaining an active part of our community.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cardin

TAX SAVINGS

Property Tax Exemption

The maximum property tax credit on your state income tax has increased from \$350 to \$500.



Sales Tax Holiday For Energy Improvements

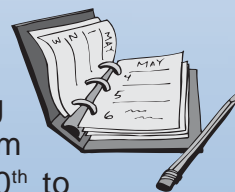


We extended the "sales tax holiday" from June 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 for residential weatherization and energy efficient products and heating equipment.

The exemption is on insulation, programmable thermostats, water heater blankets, window film, window and door weather stripping, caulking, water heaters, gas furnaces, windows and doors that meet federal Energy Star standards, and oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient. Now is the time to think about energy home improvement projects! For more information on conservation assistance, visit www.ctsavesenergy.com.

Sales Tax-Free Week

This year's sales tax-free week for clothing and footwear costing less than \$300 per item takes place August 20th to August 26th, just in time for back-to-school shopping!



Jobs

Retaining Jobs at Home

To support job retention and growth, we passed several bills to help Connecticut businesses compete. The property tax on machinery and equipment is being phased out, the corporate tax surcharge for 2007 has been eliminated, and we created other targeted tax credits and grants.

In addition, we provided grants expanding the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to help promote nanotechnology initiatives and the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit. We also established the Office of the Business Advocate to assist small businesses in accessing business assistance programs and to act as a business information clearinghouse. We need to keep Connecticut's economy going and growing. (PA 06-83)

Fully Funding Teachers' Pensions

Great strides have been made with respect to the Teachers' Retirement Fund. For the first time in years, the Teachers' Retirement Fund for the current and next fiscal year has been fully funded; a total of \$245.6 million. Besides being fiscally prudent, our state's teachers deserve this earned protection. (PA 06-186)

Transportation

Keeping Connecticut Moving

A \$2.3 billion transportation initiative that contains no tolls or increase in the wholesale gas tax was passed. Included in this package are appropriations for the New Haven-Springfield rail link, the rehabilitation of railcars for that line as well as Shore Line East and Metro-North, and improvements to I-95.

Improving mass transit will make the entire state a more desirable place in which to work and live. This landmark legislation will go a long way toward easing traffic congestion. It will be an incentive for Connecticut's companies to stay and grow, and will encourage new companies to relocate to our state. (PA 06-136)

Education

Tax Deduction For College Savings

If college costs are in your future, you will be happy to know that contributions to Connecticut's college savings plan (CHET) can now be deducted from Connecticut's adjusted gross income for state tax purposes. CHET deductions are limited to \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers annually. Invest now and claim your deduction on your 2006 tax return. (PA 06-186)



Seniors

Protecting Working Seniors

Today's seniors are living and working longer. Many want to work beyond retirement age, and many have to work because Social Security benefits are not enough to meet living expenses. Those who worked long and hard faced a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their Social Security benefits they received if they became eligible for workers' compensation total disability benefits. We repealed the offset, thereby allowing injured workers to collect full workers' compensation benefits and Social Security. (PA 06-84)



Children

School Nutrition



With the increasing attention to childhood obesity and to reinforce healthy food habits at schools, we passed legislation banning the sale of soda and sugary beverages in schools and gave schools incentives to offer healthy food and snacks for purchase by students. The law also requires the Department of Education to establish nutritional standards for food sold to students in school settings. (PA 06-63)

Protecting Our Children

We passed landmark legislation this session that sets a goal of realigning budget priorities so a total of 10% of state funds are invested in child poverty prevention by the year 2020 -- setting out what has been dubbed a "2020 Vision for Connecticut's Children."

Instead of reacting to a crisis, the focus has been shifted to invest in programs that have been proven to prevent abuse, bolster school performance, and improve mental health. Examples of investment in prevention include: early education, school readiness, after school programs, health care and immunization, and vocational training opportunities. These programs have proven successful and cost-effective. (PA 06-179)

Preventing Underage Drinking

Many promising young lives have been lost as a result of underage drinking related accidents. Studies show that 77% of high school students report they obtained alcohol in their homes, with or without parental consent. A new law makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage alcohol possession on private property, or not make reasonable efforts to prevent such activity. The law provides exemptions for your own children, or for religious or medical reasons. (PA 06-112)

53rd DISTRICT NEWS

- ✓ The Town of Tolland has been awarded a \$500,000 grant through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program for the completion of the access road to the Tolland Business park.
- ✓ The Town of Willington has been awarded a \$300,000 grant through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program for the installation of a water main from Tolland to Hall School.
- ✓ The Town of Ashford will receive an additional \$25,795 in state funding for special education needs this year.



Rep. Cardin with his student Gregory Naigles of Tolland who finished in the top 15 of the Connecticut State Geography Bee.



Rep. Cardin, with movie director Morgan Spurlock, speaks at a special legislative forum on the benefits of healthy school nutrition.